

SENIOR EPIDEMIOLOGIST

JOB TITLE: Senior Epidemiologist

GRADE: 21

JOB CODE: 2171

DATE: 1-26-05

GENERAL FUNCTION: Under general supervision of the local health department director, performs complex: epidemiological studies on the distribution and determinants of bioterrorism events, infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies (epidemic and endemic). Work involves assisting in devising methods of surveillance, implementation, and analysis of epidemiological investigations or studies; participating in complex data management and report writing for epidemiological studies and investigations within a specified geographic area of the state. Involves close consultation with and training of community medical professionals.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Conducts and supervises disease surveillance for the health department in collaboration with key community partners.

Assists in the formulation of recommendations for interventions to reduce the occurrence and/or severity of diseases of public health significance in the region/county. Reads, interprets and prepares technical reports on epidemiologic studies and investigations.

Conducts field investigations during periods of unusual occurrence of disease.

Coordinates activities with other local and state agencies. Attends meetings, training, Seminars, and workshops related to epidemiology. Coordinates activities in the health department in relationship to epidemiology.

Participates in various department communicable disease clinics such as SID and TB. Supervises and/or conducts interviews with individuals and other agencies as needed to obtain disease information.

Educates other staff and the public on the policies and procedures for effective disease Surveillance and control. Develops and maintains updated data systems of current epidemiology information.

Assists with the development of operational drills and/or exercise scenarios designed to train, test and evaluate emergency response concepts or standard operating guidelines.

Designs surveys and questionnaires to collect data on specific diseases. Tabulates, charts and graphs health related data for analysis of agent, host and environmental factors. Conducts studies designed to identify segments of the population at greatest risk of

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acquiring specific diseases and to identify risk factors associated with disease.

Assists in the formulation of hypotheses to explain the differential occurrence of diseases in various population groups and locations in Kentucky, and assists in the design of epidemiologic studies to test these hypotheses. Applies appropriate scientific sampling techniques in the selection of study subjects and controls so as to minimize bias and assure the validity of study conclusions. Performs statistical analyses of study data.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: General direction, working from broad goals and policies.

Supervisor plays limited role in setting objectives and organizing work. The Kentucky Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning may assist in setting epidemiological objectives. Employee participates heavily in setting work objectives.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: May supervise designated staff

JOB SPECIFICATIONS:

Knowledge and Abilities:

Thorough knowledge of epidemiology& control of infectious& chronic diseases.

Thorough knowledge of epidemiological and public health principles, methods and procedures.

Working knowledge of etiology, prevention and treatment of communicable and chronic diseases.

Considerable knowledge of state and local laws, regulations and policies governing the investigation and reporting of communicable diseases.

Ability to use SPSS, SAS or similar statistical package, Epi Info, MS Access, Excel, and PowerPoint. If candidate does not have experience with aforementioned programs, they must have demonstrated ability to use complex software programs for epidemiological purposes.

Ability to identify potential communicable or acute and chronic health conditions and take appropriate action.

Ability to analyze statistical data, draws appropriate conclusions, and prepare statistical and narrative reports.

Ability to work effectively with a wide range of health professionals in a teamwork setting.

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Ability to work with the public in sensitive health matters.

Ability to communicate effectively in order to make presentations on technical matters to Professional and lay audiences.

Ability to maintain accurate records.

Ability to work effectively with minimum supervision.

Ability to design, direct and conduct epidemiological field studies and research projects, evaluate results and summarize conclusions.

Must be willing to be on-call twenty fours (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week and have a Kentucky driver's license with reliable transportation

Minimum Education, Training and Experience Requirements: Graduate from an accredited college or university with a master's degree in Epidemiology, Public Health, Biostatistics, or a closely related field. Course work must include at least one course in epidemiology, and a second course closely related subject as Biostatistics, Vital and Medical Informatics, Survey sampling, and Design, etc. Must have at least two (2) years of public health experience as Epidemiologist.

Example of duties or responsibilities are not to be construed as describing what the duties or responsibilities of any position shall be and are not to be construed as limiting the appointing authority's ability to add to, or otherwise alter the duties and responsibilities of a position. The use of an individual expression or illustration as to duties or responsibilities shall not be regarded, as excluding assignments of others not mentioned which are of similar kind or quality.